

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph from page 24, line 23, to page 25, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5(a) is an explanatory view showing the main body side coupling portion 39 when viewed from the cartridge 5 (water purifier filtration portion). As shown in the drawing, the main body side coupling portion 39 is provided with: the top portion cover 20 and the bottom portion cover 21 forming a part of the contour of the valve main body 2; a pair of outer edge portions 46 and 46' defined along the inner wall of an opening portion formed when the covers 20 and 21 are fit in; a release button 41 (supporting member) sandwiched by the pair of the outer edge portions 46 and 46' so that it is allowed to move (slide) only in the vertical direction in the drawing, that is, one particular direction (indicated with arrow 75 in Fig. 5(b)) that intersects substantially at right angles with the axial core direction (indicated with arrow 74 in Fig. 5(b)) of the main body side coupling portion 39; a spring 52 (resilient body) for pushing the release button 41 with tension exerted onto the release button 41 in the sliding direction; a button cover 40 for pressing the release button 41 inward against the tension of the spring 52 when the user performs a disconnection operation; stoppers 47a and 47b (main body side fitting member) provided to the opening portion at a position at the side of the cartridge 5 with respect to the release button 41; and a pair of stoppers 42 and 42' (main body side stopping member) provided on a frame 43 of the release button 41 to protrude inward. The release button 41 is of a frame shape formed along the inner wall of the opening portion

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/098,511**
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of **April 20, 2004**

provided to the main body side coupling portion 39.